

Set forth below is a clean copy of the pending claims as amended.

- 1    1. (Amended) A method of providing a call forwarding  
2 and a voice mail service, comprising:  
3                 storing, in a call processing record accessible  
4 by a service control point, information on the amount of  
5 time a telephone is allowed to ring before an unanswered  
6 call to the telephone is forwarded;  
7                 storing, in said call processing record, a  
8 telephone number to which the unanswered call is to be  
9 forwarded, said telephone number corresponding to one of  
10 a telephone and a voice mail system;  
11 and  
12                 modifying said stored information on the amount  
13 of time a telephone is allowed to ring based on  
14 information received by said voice mail system; and  
15                 forwarding a call to said telephone after the  
16 telephone rings for said amount of time.
- 1    2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said voice  
2 mail system is separate from an interactive peripheral  
3 device through which call forwarding service information  
4 can be updated by a telephone call to said interactive  
5 peripheral device, said method further comprising:  
6                 modifying said stored information on the amount  
7 of time a telephone is allowed to ring based on  
8 information received by said interactive peripheral  
9 device as part of a telephone call.

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1   3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the stored  
2 information on the amount of time a telephone is allowed  
3 to ring is a ring count and wherein said interactive  
4 peripheral device includes an interface for receiving  
5 ring count information from said service subscriber via a  
6 telephone.

1   4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising  
2 updating said stored information on the amount of time a  
3 telephone is allowed to ring based on information  
4 received via the Internet.

1   5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein storing  
2 information on the amount of time a telephone is allowed  
3 to ring before a call to the telephone is forwarded  
4 includes:  
5                 receiving ring count information from a  
6 telephone service subscriber; and  
7                 storing the ring count information in said call  
8 processing record.

1   6. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
2                 storing information in the call processing  
3 record used to implement at least two different call  
4 forwarding services, said two different call forwarding  
5 services including at least one service wherein an  
6 unanswered call is sequentially forwarded when unanswered  
7 based on a list of multiple call forwarding telephone  
8 numbers stored in said call processing record and a call

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9 forwarding on no answer service wherein said unanswered  
10 call is forwarded to said voice mail system when said  
11 call forwarding on no answer service is active, said call  
12 processing record including at least one indicator  
13 indicating which of said call forwarding services is  
14 active at a given point in time, information stored in  
15 said call processing record associated with said call  
16 forwarding on no answer service being updatable via said  
17 voice mail system, information in said call processing  
18 record corresponding to said sequential call forwarding  
19 being updateable via said interactive peripheral device.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein prior to  
2 forwarding said call the method further comprises:  
3               setting a trigger on a telephone line coupled  
4 to said telephone;  
5               in response to activation of said trigger by a  
6 call directed to said telephone, sending a message to a  
7 service control point;  
8               receiving a control message from said service  
9 control point; and  
10              in response to said message setting a timer  
11 used to measure the amount of time the telephone rings.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2               in response to the timer reaching said amount  
3 of time a telephone is allowed to ring, sending another  
4 message to the service control point; and

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5 receiving a message from the service control  
6 point including a telephone number to be used to forward  
7 said call.

1 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 operating the service control point to use a  
3 next event list to determine the telephone number to be  
4 used to forward said call.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. Canceled.

14. Canceled.

15. Canceled.

16. Canceled.

17. Canceled.

1 18. (Amended) A telephone system capable of forwarding a  
2 call directed to a telephone, comprising:  
3 a service control point including information  
4 on the amount of time said telephone should be allowed to

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5 ring before forwarding a call directed to said telephone  
6 to another destination;

7 a telephone switch coupled to said control  
8 point and to said telephone for detecting the amount of  
9 time said telephone rings and for forwarding calls;

10 an interactive peripheral device coupled to  
11 said telephone switch for receiving calls used to control  
12 call forwarding operations, said interactive peripheral  
13 device including means for receiving information via a  
14 telephone call and means for updating said information on  
15 the amount of time a telephone should be allowed to ring  
16 as a function of information received via a telephone  
17 call; and

18 a voice mail system coupled to said service  
19 control point, said voice mail system including means for  
20 updating said information on the amount of time a  
21 telephone should be allowed to ring as a function of  
22 information received by said voice mail system via a  
23 telephone call.

1 19. The telephone system of claim 18, further  
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of call processing records stored  
4 at said service control point, one of said call  
5 processing records corresponding to said telephone and  
6 including said information on the amount of time said  
7 telephone should be allowed to ring.

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1    20. (Amended) The telephone system of claim 19, wherein  
2    said one of said call processing records includes a set  
3    of information corresponding to a call forwarding on no  
4    answer service and another set of information  
5    corresponding to a sequential call forwarding service  
6    wherein an unanswered call is sequentially forwarded to  
7    telephone numbers included in a list.

*Concl'd*  
1    21. (Amended) The telephone system of claim 20, further  
2    comprising: a server coupled to the Internet and to the  
3    service control point for allowing a telephone service  
4    subscriber to set the amount of time a call is allowed to  
5    ring via information transmitted over the Internet.

22. Canceled.

23. Canceled.

24. Canceled.